

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 8, 9, 11, 19 and 20. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4 and 10, 12 and 15 and added new claim 21. Thus, claims 1-7, 10, 12-18 and 21 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and intervening claims 8 and 9. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7, and 10 are patentable at least based on their dependency as well as on their own merit.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended independent claim 12 to recite limitations similar to amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 12 is patentable in a manner similar to amended claim 1 and dependent claims 13-18 are patentable at least based on their dependency as well as on their own merit.

Response to Objections:

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Applicants have deleted claim 20 and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Response to Rejections Under Section 112:

Claims 4, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 20 stand rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 for lack of antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the above claims to remove the antecedent basis issues, therefore Applicants respectfully request removal of the §112 rejections.

New Claims:

New claim 21 further defines the scope of the invention as described in the specification and drawings along the lines of allowable claim 1. In particular, claim 21 recites a turbine having, an annular flow channel arranged concentric with the rotor and downstream of an outlet of the compressor, the annular flow channel having a hollow diffuser rib passing through the flow channel, wherein a radially external end of the diffuser rib is secured on a stator of the turbine and a radially internal end opposite the external end faces the rotor, and a liquid coolant supply pipe runs within the hollow rib to introduce the liquid into the annular channel.

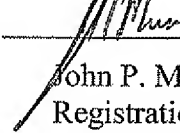
In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other claims, Applicant respectfully submits claim 21 is patentable and requests allowance of claim 21.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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